

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 2 (lines 11-18) with the following rewritten paragraph:

Currently, roundish alumina particles are known to be produced through firing after addition of a chemical reagent (see, for example, Japanese Unexamined Examined Patent Publication (kokai)(kokoku) No. 4-32004, and Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (kokai) No. 5-294613 and No. 2002-348116) or thermal spraying (see, for example, Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (kokai) No. 5-193908, 63-156011 and 2001-19425). The roundish alumina particles are not fused alumina particles.